

I was proud to help introduce the PRO Act, and I urge Members of Congress to pass it so we can protect the right to organize, rebuild our middle class, and improve the lives of working families in Illinois and across our great Nation.

□ 1145

#### CELEBRATING NATIONAL READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Read Across America Day.

Tomorrow, classrooms across the country will celebrate the Nation's largest celebration of reading. On this day, we celebrate the joy reading brings to children and families, caregivers, educators, and adults alike. Reading unlocks new adventures and new ideas and brings about a world of imagination.

The day was established by the National Education Association in 1998 to help get kids excited about reading.

Madam Speaker, I want to highlight one celebration in PA-15. Students at Howard Elementary School in Centre County kicked off this celebration with the Pennsylvania State Grange.

This celebration started with an assembly to get the kids excited and will consist of a variety of events focused on reading. Perhaps the most exciting event taking place is "Drop Everything and Read Day." Throughout the day, a sound will play randomly and students will be expected to drop whatever they are working on and pick up a book.

Madam Speaker, as a former Howard Elementary School student and now a senior member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I am always happy to see our students eager to learn.

#### FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, a year ago, President Putin launched an unlawful invasion of the people of Ukraine, and it has changed the world, a war that has led to nothing but destruction and human atrocities.

I have seen these atrocities firsthand when I traveled to Ukraine last September—the bombing of homes, of hospitals, of schools; the impacts on innocent women and children; the deportation of families; and the atrocities go on and on.

President Putin is a war criminal. I am proud that he has sanctioned me and many of my colleagues for our support of Ukraine and for standing up for

their democracy. They are standing up for our democracy, as well.

Putin thought he could divide us and Ukraine would immediately fall. He was wrong, wrong, and wrong. The Western world is united as one because freedom and democracy are worth fighting for, and that is what this is all about.

We need to continue to provide financial support to Ukraine, including fighters, tanks, ATACMS, HIMARS, what it takes for them to win this war because there is no other option.

This is the test of our time, and we must rise to meet that test at this time.

#### DISAVOW NEW NUCLEAR ACCORD WITH IRAN

(Mr. SANTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today horrified at the reports from Iran that hundreds of schoolgirls appear to have been poisoned in the suspected attack by the Iranian Government. I cannot stand by idly and watch these women and children continue to be targeted simply because they want to live free from persecution.

Last month, I called on the President to do more than merely sanction the Ayatollah's illegal theocratic regime. The Biden administration will not respond because they are still looking to resuscitate the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Additionally, its weakness on the world stage has the administration consumed by the war in Ukraine and recent airspace invasions from China.

We have faced decades-long failed attempts to negotiate directly with the Islamic Republic. If there is one thing that has become crystal clear, it is that resuscitating the nuclear deal no longer offers a realistic pathway for mitigating the threats posed by Tehran.

We need to stop virtue signaling and soft-pedaling with flimsy symbolic support. I call on the Biden administration to publicly disavow the prospect of a new nuclear deal with Iran.

#### HONORING THE LEGACY OF JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE

(Ms. BUDZINSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today, at the close of Black History Month and the beginning of Women's History Month, to recognize an incredible athlete and role model from Illinois' 13th Congressional District, Jackie Joyner-Kersey. I also wish her a happy birthday today.

Born and raised in East St. Louis, Jackie Joyner-Kersey is one of the best track athletes of all time, winning six

Olympic medals and four World Championship track titles.

Over the course of her 12-year Olympic career, Jackie broke countless records, including the world record in the heptathlon that still stands today. She was also the first African-American woman to win gold medals in long jump and the heptathlon.

Jackie's legacy extends far beyond her athletic achievements. Just last week, I visited the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Foundation, which provides educational and athletic opportunities for young people in East St. Louis. I was truly inspired by what I saw in Jackie's commitment and work. Throughout her life, she has used her platform to be a tireless advocate for children's education, racial equity, and women's rights.

As we celebrate Black history and women's history, let's recognize incredible folks like Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

#### REVERSE FUNDING FOR ELECTIVE ABORTIONS

(Mr. MCCORMICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCORMICK. Madam Speaker, the President is once again using the Department of Defense to advance the far-left agenda and pro-abortion policies.

The new policy to give servicemembers and their families paid administrative leave for up to 3 weeks and travel reimbursement to obtain out-of-state elective abortions is yet another extreme example.

The law is clear and vetted. No Federal funds are to be used for elective abortions. The military mission is equally clear: to be a lethal force to defend the innocents and to defeat those who would do them harm. This flies in the face of that mission.

I call on the President to reverse this policy, which is in violation of law and counter to the military mission.

#### BORDER NEEDS MORE RESOURCES

(Mr. LALOTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LALOTA. Madam Speaker, the border is not secure. Our officers are doing everything they can, but they need more resources. They need better leadership.

The President must take the border crisis seriously because 100,000 Americans died from fentanyl poisoning last year, and we know that fentanyl is coming from China through the U.S.-Mexico border.

Republicans in the House understand this. We stand ready to increase physical barriers, to hire more Border Patrol agents and immigration judges, to implement new technologies, and to support our officers on the front lines of this crisis.